

**Amendments to the Claims**

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of compute clustering, comprising:  
identifying a defined cluster, the cluster including a plurality of receptors in a chassis, each receptor configured to couple the chassis to a network device, at least one of the plurality of receptors in the cluster being unoccupied by a network device;  
storing the physical locations associated with each of the plurality of receptors, wherein storing the physical locations includes storing the physical location associated with the at least one receptor in the cluster that is unoccupied by a network device;  
associating each stored receptor physical location of the defined cluster with a not necessarily same selected one of a plurality of images;  
receiving a first selected image for a first network device of the defined cluster in accordance with the physical address of the receptor coupled to the first network device; and  
receiving a second selected image for a second network device of the defined cluster in accordance with the physical address of the receptor coupled to the second network device, wherein the second selected image is different from the first selected image.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving an image designated as a default image for a sub-plurality of receptors in the defined cluster.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
associating the default image with the at least one receptor in the defined cluster that is unoccupied by a network device.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of images comprises a different physical location identifying different software that operates to configure the plurality of receptors in the defined cluster.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein a master image comprises a physical location identifying software that operates to configure a selected receptor.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
detecting the presence of a network device coupled to at least one receptor in the defined cluster that was previously unoccupied; and  
in response to detecting the presence, automatically installing an image on the network device, the image comprising a selected one of the plurality of images associated with the physical address of the previously unoccupied receptor.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
detecting the presence of a network device coupled to at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously unoccupied; and  
generating a message displayed to a user over a graphical interface, the message providing the user with the option of installing a default image on the network device, the default image designated for a sub-plurality of receptors in the cluster.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
detecting the presence of a network device coupled to at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously unoccupied;  
reading an image associated with the network device;  
determining that the image associated with the network device is not a default image designated for the sub-plurality of receptors in the cluster; and  
overriding the image by installing the default image on the network device.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
detecting the presence of a network device coupled to at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously unoccupied;  
reading an image associated with the network device;  
determining that the image associated with the network device is not a default image designated for the sub-plurality of receptors in the cluster; and  
generating a message displayed to a user over a graphical user interface, the message providing the user with the option of installing the default image on the network device.

11. (Previously presented) Compute clustering software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to:

identify a defined cluster, the cluster including a plurality of receptors in a chassis, each receptor configured to couple the chassis to a network device, at least one of the plurality of receptors in the cluster being unoccupied by a network device;

store the physical locations associated with each of the plurality of receptors, wherein storing the physical locations includes storing the physical locations associated with the at least one receptor in the cluster that is unoccupied by a network device;

store a logical address for each of a plurality of network devices occupying the plurality of receptors in the defined cluster, whereby each logical location is associated with a physical location of a respective receptor;

associate each logical address of the defined cluster with a not necessarily same selected one of a plurality of images;

send a first selected image to a first network device of the defined cluster in accordance with the logical address of the first network device; and

send a second selected image to a second network device of the defined cluster in accordance with the logical address of the second network device, wherein the second selected image is different from the first selected image.

12. (Previously presented) The software of claim 11, further operable to:

send an image designated as a default image for a plurality of network devices in the defined cluster.

13. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 12, further operable to:

associate a selected one of the plurality of images with the at least one receptor in the defined cluster that is unoccupied by a network device.

14. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of images comprises a different physical location identifying different software that operates to configure the plurality of network devices in the cluster.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 11, wherein the master image comprises a physical location identifying software that operates to configure the selected receptor.

17. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 11, further operable to:  
detect the presence of a network device coupled to the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously unoccupied; and  
install an image on the network device, the image comprising a selected one of the plurality of images associated with the physical address of the previously unoccupied receptor.

18. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 11, further operable to:  
detect the presence of a network device coupled to the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously unoccupied; and  
generate a message displayed to a user over a graphical interface, the message providing the user with the option of installing a default image on the network device, the default image designated for a plurality of receptors in the defined cluster.

19. (Original) The software of Claim 11, further operable to:  
detect the presence of a network device coupled to the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously unoccupied;  
read an image associated with the network device;

determine that the image associated with the network device is not a default image designated for the plurality of receptors in the cluster; and  
override the image by installing the default image on the network device.

20. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 11, further operable to:  
detect the presence of a network device coupled to the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously unoccupied;  
read an image associated with the network device;  
determine that the image associated with the network device is not a default image designated for a plurality of receptors in the cluster; and  
generate a message displayed to a user over a graphical user interface, the message providing the user with the option of installing the default image on the network device.

21-27 (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 11, further operable to:  
store a set of attributes for the defined cluster;  
expand the cluster by identifying additional receptors; and  
update a network device coupled to a newly identified receptor in the defined cluster automatically using the stored set of attributes.

29. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 28, further operable to:  
identify a second defined cluster, the cluster including a different plurality of receptors, each receptor configured to couple the chassis to a network device;  
store a second set of attributes for the second defined cluster; and  
update at least a portion of the network devices in the second defined cluster automatically using the stored second set of attributes.

30. (Previously Presented) Compute clustering software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to provide a graphical user interface (GUI), the GUI operable to:

- present a selection area for illustrating a plurality of receptors in a chassis, each receptor configured to couple to a network device, wherein the selection area conveys a physical location of each of the plurality of receptors;

- receive information from a user to create a defined cluster by pointing and clicking on a portion of the plurality of receptors illustrated in the selection area;

- present an image selection window with a plurality of software image choices;

- receive an image selection for each of one or more selected receptacles in the defined cluster; and

- wherein the software is operable to associate each logical address of the defined cluster with a not necessarily same selected one of the plurality of images.

31. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 30, wherein the GUI is further operable to:

- present a parameter area for illustrating a plurality of parameters;

- receive a selected set of parameters via the parameter area; and

- wherein the software is operable to associate a logical address of each network device coupled to one of the plurality of receptors; and

- update some or all network devices of the defined cluster automatically using the selected set of parameters using the respective network device logical address.

32. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 31, wherein the GUI is further operable to:

- indicate if a network device is presently coupled to each respective receptacle of the defined group; and

receive input to indicate if a network device that is later coupled to a currently unoccupied receptacle is to be automatically configured; and

wherein the software is operable to detect the presence of a network device coupled to the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously unoccupied; and

install an image on the network device automatically only if automatic configuration was indicated, the image comprising the selected one of the plurality of images associated with the physical address of the previously unoccupied receptor.

33. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 31, wherein the GUI is further operable to receive a default image selection for each of one or more selected receptacles in the defined cluster.

34. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 30, wherein the GUI is further operable to

receive information from a user to create at least a second defined cluster by pointing and clicking on a portion of the plurality of receptors illustrated in the selection area;

receive a second selected set of parameters via the parameter area; and

wherein the software is operable update some or all network devices of the second defined cluster automatically using the second selected set of parameters using the respective network device logical address.

35. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 34, wherein the GUI is further operable to display aggregate performance information for each defined cluster and to also display performance information for each individual network device within each defined cluster.